

JULY 28, 2016

# REBUILD BY DESIGN

■ RESIST ■ DELAY ■ STORE ■ DISCHARGE ■

## HUDSON RIVER

Hoboken Weehawken Jersey City | New Jersey

### DRAFT COMMUNITY WORKSHOP WITH CAG SUMMARY



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**DATE:** July 28, 2016  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Stevens Institute of Technology  
Burchard Hall  
6th Street and River Terrace  
Hoboken | NJ  
**PURPOSE:** Alternatives Analysis

Table 1: List of Attendees

Name of Attendee	✓	Organization
Marilyn Baer	✓	Hoboken Reporter
Marguerite Bunyan	✓	
Ron Hine	✓	
Carter Craft	✓	
Paul Somerville	✓	
David Ksyniak	✓	CDM Smith
Jared Minatelli	✓	Advance Realty
Gary Holtzman	✓	Hoboken Planning Board
Kay LiCansi	✓	Resident

Name of Attendee	✓	Organization
Claire Lukacs	✓	Resident
Marty Rothfelder	✓	PSE&G
Susan Murcko	✓	Resident
James Magenheimer	✓	Resident
Susan O’Kane	✓	Weehawken
Marc Benowitz	✓	Resident
Pat Cacifold	✓	Democrat
Sharon Paul Carpenter	✓	PCA
Abby Turke	✓	
Mike Henderson	✓	
James Larson	✓	Hoboken
Phil Jonet	✓	Hoboken
Grounm Ahmab	✓	Weehawken
Jim Doyle	✓	Hoboken
Brian Battaylre	✓	
Vik MH	✓	
Hush Evans	✓	Resident
Josh Heltzer	✓	
Beth Wytiaz	✓	Resident
Ivan Schlachter	✓	
John Gregorio	✓	Resident
Carl Kirsha	✓	Resident
Camerin Spahn	✓	Stevens
Stephenie Lamster	✓	EPA
Ray Guzman	✓	CAG
Minako Meyer	✓	Resident
Jocelyn Meyer	✓	Resident
Esthar Marie Milsted Villamar	✓	American Legion
Firas Saleh	✓	Stevens
Richard Wienstein	✓	CAG

Name of Attendee	✓	Organization
Robert Maffia	✓	Stevens
Gregory Johnson	✓	Stevens
Hartmut Grossman	✓	Resident
Tom Brennan	✓	
Daniel Bryan	✓	Resident
Matt White	✓	Cantech
Jeff Winklet	✓	Coal
Ryan Peene	✓	Resident
Katherine Guest	✓	Hudson County View
Peet John Veloce	✓	Resident
Matthew McCarty	✓	Engineer
Irene Sobdon	✓	Resident
James Magenhema	✓	
Robert Shaw	✓	Resident
David Renna	✓	Resident
Dave Johnsen	✓	HHA
Darit Cohen	✓	Resident
Mary Bilali	✓	Resident
Patricia Waiters	✓	Hoboken Community Advocate
Suttanme Arsenault	✓	Resident
James Arsenault	✓	Resident
Leslie Howard	✓	Resident
Carrow Thibault	✓	Resident/FBW
Martin Anderson	✓	Resident
Donna Mahon	✓	US HUD
Don Conger	✓	NHSA
Fred Porci	✓	NHSA
Melissa Abernathy	✓	QLC
Matthew Goodstein	✓	Stevens
Abhijit Patil	✓	Dewberry

Name of Attendee	✓	Organization
Lisa Cintron	✓	Lisa Cintron
Ltoirenda Ross	✓	Ltoirenda Ross
Caitlin Scanlon	✓	Caitlin Scanlon
Anne Lockwood	✓	Anne Lockwood
Kim McEvoy	✓	Kim McEvoy
Tom Jacobson	✓	Tom Jacobson
Marc Recbo	✓	Marc Recbo
Rich Goodin	✓	Rich Goodin
Barbara Gombach Weinstein	✓	Barbara Gombach Weinstein
Michael Small	✓	Michael Small
Carol Santangelo	✓	Carol Santangelo
Tom Illing	✓	Tom Illing
Daryl Solomon	✓	Daryl Solomon
Vito Lanotte	✓	Vito Lanotte
Mary Bilali	✓	Mary Bilali
Tom Hilmer	✓	Tom Hilmer
Steven Chicoine	✓	Steven Chicoine
Ed Fredrich	✓	Ed Fredrich
Terry Prauses	✓	Terry Prauses
David Hunt	✓	David Hunt
John Carey	✓	HHOI
Alyson Beha	✓	HUD
Babette Ceccohli	✓	Resident

# SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

## Welcome

Mayor Zimmer provided opening remarks followed by David Rosenblatt of NJDEP. Mayor Zimmer thanked the community for their continued input in the project over the past few months, and thanked Stevens Institute for their assistance in the project and for hosting the evening's meeting. Mayor Zimmer reminded everyone that flood risk is real and commented on the recent stormwater flooding that occurred several days prior to the meeting. Dave Rosenblatt stressed that the purpose of the meeting was to explain the alternative matrix which had been developed, and encouraged the public to provide comments on the matrix. Dave Rosenblatt advised the public that the next meeting would be on September 8 when the preferred alternative selected based on the alternatives matrix would be presented to the public.

## Agenda and Project Status

Ken Spahn with Dewberry thanked the Mayor and the community for their continued involvement in the project, and provided an overview of the project status and agenda for the meeting. Following a few introductory slides, the balance of the presentation provided an overview of the alternatives matrix. Each of the five buckets of criteria: Flood Risk Reduction, Socioeconomic and Built Environment, Benefit Cost Analysis, Construction/Maintenance and Operations and Environmental Impacts were explained by various presenters. Embedded in the presentation of the first bucket, Flood Risk Reduction, was a presentation of the stormwater modeling which provided an overview of the stormwater flood risk reduction benefits anticipated from the Delay Store Discharge (DSD) infrastructure under all alternatives. The relationship between rainfall events and tidal stage was explained (high tides limit the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage system).

## Q&A

After the presentation, a panel consisting of Mayor Zimmer, Ken Spahn and Rahul Parab from Dewberry as well as NJDEP representatives was formed to take questions from the audience.

**Q 1** - How is the variability of climate change being considered in the project?

**R1** - Climate change was accommodated in accord with the best science from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which estimates a median sea level rise of 2.34 feet by the year 2075. In addition, the structure of all resist barriers will be capable of supporting a resist barrier which could handle a 0.2 percent annual chance probability storm (aka 500-year storm) should a decision be made at a later date to increase the height of the resist barrier.

**Q2** - What does a flood gate look like?

**R2** - To date graphics have depicted gates in the open position. Future graphics will depict gates in the closed position. Information on gate location will be available at the break out session.

**Q3** - It is unclear how DSD will move forward since DSD is not included in the cost data.

**R3** - While there are ongoing DSD elements being undertaken by the city (e.g. southwest park, new pump stations, etc.) available funding on this project will likely be limited to a DSD demonstration project.

**Q4** - The least costly resist alternative will completely consume available funds, therefore, how will DSD be paid for, and how will maintenance be paid for?

**R4** - A partnership with North Hudson and others will be required to fully fund the DSD and maintenance and operations. Discussions about funding of maintenance and operations are underway.

**Q5** - Since census data is six years old, is there a way to get more granular data for the vulnerable populations?

**R5** - This is something we might be able to work through with the Housing Authority, however, the analysis is required to use certain data sets so flexibility might be limited.

**Q6** - Can the Dewberry contract be posted, and can there be peer review of all Dewberry studies/conclusions as appropriate.

**R6** - DEP will investigate whether the Dewberry contract can be posted. DEP has already engaged several firms to provide oversight of Dewberry's efforts, including Dr. Blumberg of Stevens Institute. Peer reviews will be made public as appropriate.

**Q7** - The Housing Authority received flooding earlier in the week. It is important to address stormwater flooding. Additionally, local hires should be considered where feasible.

**R7** - HUD guidance with respect to local hires for this project will be followed.

**Q8** - During Superstorm Sandy, the project area was fortunate there were no fires, since the fire stations were not in service. The damages in the Study Area were calculated at about \$500M during Superstorm Sandy. How were project benefits of \$1.4B determined in the cost benefit analysis?

**R8** - Project benefits include: avoided damages to structures and contents, and stress and anxiety losses.

**Q9** - Some in the scientific community have suggested that sea level rise could be much greater than currently predicted. How does this project accommodate for sea level rise in excess of current prediction models?

**R9** - The project is being designed in accord with the intermediate NOAA guidance which calls for a median sea level rise of 2.34 feet by 2075. Resist barriers are being designed to be capable of supporting a taller resist barrier if that proves necessary at a later date. In addition the number of gates is minimized, since gates have proven to be the design element of the project at greatest risk of failure.

**Q10** - Some argue that Superstorm Sandy was a 450 year storm. How is that factored into this project?

**R10** - The magnitude of Superstorm Sandy was variable depending on location. For this Study Area, there is a joint USGS/FEMA study which found that Superstorm Sandy approximated the 100-year storm surge height.

### **Meeting Closure**

Public was thanked for their attendance and invited to engage in further detailed discussions at the various stations.

